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Impact Assessment (EIA) Process & Property Management: The Case of the
Negril Tourism Industry in Jamaica

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THE
UPCYCLE



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The focus of this research is on one of the most active tourism hotspots in the Caribbean, the Negril coastline. It also happens to be particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. The various developments constructed on the coastline are subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). EIAs have not historically considered climate change impacts in the assessment process [1].

The authors, from Montego Bay Community College and the University of the West Indies, set out to investigate if EIAs in Negril have included relevant considerations of climate change concerns. The study selected five approved developments and put them through a Climate Change assessment checklist which examined the extent to which climate change concerns were integrated into the respective EIAs.

CESaRE has identified critical areas for consideration stemming from the authors' work:

1. The EIAs showed an improved performance in addressing climate change issues with time. This coincided with increased public awareness and climate discussions by the local regulator NEPA. The agency's role will be instrumental in effecting policy level change to the current EIA process.
2. There is a need for regulations and guidelines for climate change integration into the EIA process, which will encourage practitioners to discuss adaptation and mitigation measures.
3. With improved modelling and prediction capabilities, EIA practitioners should be able to better predict future events, and propose actions to prepare for such.

CESaRE has a strong mandate to connect leading institutions and academics in the Caribbean, pushing research publications from virtual sources of information to catalysts of change.

Through our innovative publication issues, we will feature many academics in our scope of the environmental sciences and renewable energy, and The UpCycle hopes to further the discussion beyond publication.

Owing to your work within the field, we are connecting you to our latest postgraduate feature article and we hope that there is room for collaboration. Your continued active engagement with academics and research institutions will build resilience in the Caribbean region and stimulate much needed change.

You can contact the corresponding author orvillegrey@uwistia.edu.jm.

REFERENCES

